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'(3) Exemption from the payment of examination fee for S.S.L.C. Public Examination and other Public Examinations conducted under the authority of the Government provided that the student concerned held the fee concession mentioned in (1) above.'

"(*b*) The approximate cost to the Government is about ten lakhs.

"(*c*) Yes. The Government have decided to discontinue the grant of further educational concessions to the children and dependants of Defence Service Personnel.

"(*d*) The entire expenditure is met by the Provincial Government.

"(*e*) The discontinuance was sanctioned at the suggestion of the Government of India."

Assignment of lands under the Siddhapuram tank to political prisoners.

* 46 *Q.*—Sri N. SANKARA REDDI: Will the Hon. the Minister for Education be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether any action has been taken on the report of the Collector of Kurnool for assigning the lands under the Siddhapuram tank to political sufferers;

(*b*) whether it is a fact that more than 2,000 acres of land under the tank are still lying waste;

(*c*) whether the Government propose to take urgent steps to utilize the land and water there for growing some foodstuffs to ease the present food shortage;

(*d*) whether anybody had offered an undertaking to cultivate the lands on a temporary basis; and

(*e*) what steps the Government are going to take in the matter?

The Hon. Sri K. MADHAVA MENON:—"(*a*) Yes; the matter has been engaging the attention of the Government in consultation with the authorities concerned.

"(*b*) Yes (the land was not brought under plough till now as it was earmarked for the use of the Siddhapuram settlement).

"(*c*) The question of leaving apart 1,000 acres of arable land in the settlement for the use of the settlers and of assigning the surplus land over and above these 1,000 acres available in the settlement, to outsiders on a permanent basis is under the consideration of the Government.

"(*d*) The President, Kisan Congress Committee, Atmakur Sub-taluk, Kurnool district and two others, viz., Sri A. Rami Reddi and Sri K. Chenchu Reddi have represented that they are ready to cultivate the lands in the settlement with the help of the local ryots, if permitted.

"(*e*) The Government expect to issue suitable orders soon."

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Dr. V. K. JOHN :—" May I ask the Hon. Minister whether instructions have been issued to the Collectors that they need not assign lands to those who do not belong to the Congress now, although they were in the category of political sufferers in the past?"

The Hon. Sri K. MADHAVA MENON :—" This question relates to Siddhapuram area, and no such orders have been issued regarding that."

Sri N. SANKARA REDDI :—" May I inquire how many applications from political sufferers are still pending disposal in the Kurnool district?"

The Hon. Sri K. MADHAVA MENON :—" Whether any applications are pending for this Siddhapuram area, I cannot say, because that was not intended to be assigned originally. It is only recently we have decided to assign to outsiders permanently the surplus of land over 1,000 acres."

Dr. V. K. JOHN :—" May I take it that instructions have not been issued not to assign lands for political sufferers, who have changed their party, not in Siddhapuram alone, but in other areas also?"

The Hon. Sri K. MADHAVA MENON :—" This question relates to Siddhapuram only."

Sri R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" In view of the large acreage of land involved in Sidhapuram tank area, will the Government consider the desirability of forming a co-operative farming society there instead of creating new landlords by assigning large extent of land to a few?"

The Hon. Sri K. MADHAVA MENON :—" The area available for assignment is all unreclaimed land extending over 2,000 acres. There is no proposal to give a large area to a few, but it is intended to be given to a large number of people. Certain political sufferers have come forward to reclaim the lands in the settlement. It is to be assigned to them for a temporary period, and not permanently. The question of permanent assignment will be taken up only after the land is reclaimed."

Dr. SYED TAJUDDIN :—" May I inquire why not the area be given to co-operative societies for cultivation?"

The Hon. Sri K. MADHAVA MENON :—" If the persons to whom the lands are assigned form themselves into a co-operative society and then cultivate it, it will be very good."

Sri R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" Cannot such a condition be stipulated in the present case at the time of assignment of land?"

The Hon. Sri K. MADHAVA MENON :—" That is not proposed to be done in this area, because it is not likely many people will come forward to reclaim the land."

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JANAB ABDUL LATIF FAROOKHI :—" May I know what is the general policy of Government with regard to assignment of political land? "

THE HON. SRI K. MADHAVA MENON :—" I am not aware of any land classified as " political land." (Laughter.)

JANAB ABDUL LATIF FAROOKHI :—" I mean assignment of land to political sufferers."

MR. PRESIDENT :—" I think there is a Government Order about it."

Collection of rent by the landholders from their ryots.

* 47 *Q*.—SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO : Will the Hon. the Minister for Land Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the landholders have represented to the Government that, since the passing of the Rent Reduction Act and the Zamindari Abolition Act, they are finding it difficult to collect rents from their ryots;

(*b*) what action, if any, has been taken by the Government to ensure due payment of rents;

(*c*) whether the landholders have not been able to pay peshkash and the cesses due to the Government;

(*d*) what the amounts of peshkash and cesses are for fasli 1357 and thereafter and what the actual receipts are (fasliwar);

(*e*) whether the question of Government themselves undertaking the collection of rents has ever been considered;

(*f*) whether, in respect of estates proposed to be taken over, the Government intend collecting all arrears of rent due from the ryots and pay the balance to landholders after deducting the peshkash and cesses due to the Government;

(*g*) if the answer to (*f*) is in the affirmative, whether, in respect of estates where reduction of rents has been notified and such reduction becomes effective from fasli 1357, there will not be a corresponding reduction in peshkash and cesses;

(*h*) whether the Government have made good to local bodies the amounts in respect of cesses due and if so, what the amounts paid are; and

(*i*) whether the Government have any definite plan in regard to rents due from ryots, method of their collection and other cognate matters?

THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI :—" (*a*) Yes. Some landholders have made representations to the Government to that effect.

" (*b*) In March 1948, after consultation with certain representative landholders, the Government issued a Press Communique advising the ryots to pay 75 per cent of the rents to landholders which the latter had agreed to take. A similar Press